in June 1994 and given assent by the President of India on 8th July 1994. The Act provides for the regulation of removal, storage and transplantation of Human Organs for therapeutic purposes and for the prevention of commercial dealings in Human Organs and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto. Some of the State including Uttar Pradesh & Bihar have not adopted the Act so far, inspite of repeated reminders at the highest level. The provides for stringent punishment for removal of Organs without authority, which is punishable with imprisonment for a term which may extend to five years, with fine which may extend to ten thousand rupees. If the registered Medical Practitioner is convicted, his name can be removed from the Register of the State Medical Council for a period of two years for the first offence, and permanently for a subsequent offence. The State Government who have adopted the Act can take action against the guilty persons, according to the provisions of the Act.

AIDS/HIV Counselling and Guidance Centre, Nagpur

332. SHRIMATI BASANTI SARMA:
DR. SHRIKANT RAMCHANDRA JICHKAR:

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that the AIDS/HIV Counselling and Guidance Centre, Nagpur run by the Central India Foundation is the only full time voluntary centre available in the ten districts of the Vidarbha region of Maharashtra;

(b) if so, what is the help and assistance which the Government is giving to this Centre; and

(c) what steps will be taken to strengthen the work of this Centre and to give any special financial grants by Centre for its voluntary work in the field of AIDS?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI DALIT EZHILMALAI): (a) The State Government has reported that this is the only centre run by any Non-Governmental Organisation, and covers 9 Districts of Vidarbha Region.

(b) and (c) Government of Maharashtra has received a proposal from the organisation requesting for financial assistance. The proposal is to be considered by the Standing Core Committee for HIV/AIDS Control in the State of Maharashtra at its next meeting.

No expenditure on AIDS victims

333. SHRI JALALUDIN ANSARI:
SHRI GAYA SINGH:

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news-item appearing in the Indian Express, New Delhi dated 5th May, 1998 under the caption "Crores are spent on AIDS awareness, not a penny on victims"; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI DALIT EZHILMALAI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) A Strategic Plan which offers "Care and Support of the Patients living with AIDS(PLWA)" has been initiated. The following measures have been taken to implement the plan:

(1) Instructions have been issued to all the Superintendents of the Central and State Medical College Hospitals to treat all AIDS cases without discrimination, without stigmatisation and patient should be treated in the General wards of the Hospitals. No case of AIDS is to be refused admission.

(2) For Treatment of the victims of the AIDS cases, NAC has already allocated funds for Treatment of opportunistic infections from which AIDS Patients usually suffer. These include anti-tuberculosis medicine, anti-protozoal medicine and anti-fungal medicines. The AIDS patients are to be given free treatment.

(3) A pilot study is being undertaken in Manipur, Maharashtra and Tamil Nadu for the care of the AIDS Patients right from the home level upto the tertiary level. Separate funds have been sanctioned for the AIDS care continuum project.